

STATE OF INDIANA)
)SS:
COUNTY OF) IN THE COURT
 CASE NO.

IN RE THE MARRIAGE OF)
)
_____,)
 Petitioner,)
and)
)
_____,)
 Respondent.)

**ORDER APPOINTING
PARENTING COORDINATOR**

Pursuant to the agreement of the parties (hereinafter individually, “Mother” and “Father,” and collectively, “the parents”), and the Indiana Parenting Time Guidelines (“I.P.T.G.”), the court now Orders:

1. **Appointment.** The court hereby appoints _____ as the Parenting Coordinator (hereinafter “PC”) to serve in this cause.

2. **Expenses.** Father shall pay _____% and Mother shall pay _____% of the total of PC’s reasonable fees and expenses, unless the parties and the PC otherwise agree. However, the PC may assign certain specific charges to one party, rather than assess fees pursuant to the above expense sharing structure, if the PC determines that it would be equitable to do so in considering whether those specific charges are related to that party’s conduct.

3. **The Role and Authority.** The role, authority and duties of the PC are set out at I.P.T.G., Guideline IV. D. and specifically include the following.

3.1 Role of the PC. The PC shall work with the parents and make recommendations to resolve conflicts between the parents with respect to the child/children. These recommendations, negotiations, and education include strategies for enforcing any shared parenting plan and/or parenting time schedule, for minimizing child-related conflicts between the parents, and for eliminating unproductive or harmful behavior patterns by one or both of the parents. The PC may make recommendations for counseling and other mental health treatment for either of the parents or the children. The PC shall monitor any counseling or mental health treatment received by either of the parents or the children to ensure that the treatment meets the needs of the family.

3.2 Authority of the PC. The PC shall attempt to resolve conflicts between the parents by discussing issues, educating the parents, facilitating parent negotiations, and making recommendations. All significant recommendations by the PC that are

accepted and agreed to by the parents shall be reduced to writing and submitted to the court for approval. If any of the PC's significant recommendations are not accepted by one or both of the parents, the PC shall file and submit a written report to the court and the parents (and parents' counsel), including the disputed recommendation. Upon motion and request for hearing of either party or of the PC, the court will conduct a hearing with respect to the report and recommendation.

4. Parenting Issues Subject to Intervention.

4.1 The PC shall address all essential co-parenting issues. In doing so, the PC may undertake any of the following:

- implement parenting plans, and negotiate resolution of disputes regarding such plans;
- address vacation and/or holiday schedules;
- address transportation matters, including methods, dates and times of pick-up and delivery;
- address childcare, daycare and babysitting;
- address extracurricular and enrichment activities;
- address bedtime, diet, clothing, healthcare, and discipline;
- address issues regarding significant others (relatives, fiancés, etc.) participating in parenting time;
- (in the case of infants and toddlers) recommend an increase in parenting time when developmentally appropriate, pursuant to the Indiana Parenting Time Guidelines or other court order;
- educate the parents on effective communication and negotiation (this includes: developing and apply parenting skills and meeting the developmental needs of the children; parents learning to disengage from each other when engagement leads to conflict; teaching the parents to keep the children out of the parent's adult disagreements; identifying sources of parent conflict with one another, and working jointly to minimize conflict and lessen its harmful effects on the children);
- monitor safety issues on behalf of the children; and
- address other matters and make recommendations related to parenting issues, as appropriate.

4.2 In addition, the PC is authorized to take the following action to address parenting issues, as appropriate:

- recommend to the parents that one or both parents avail themselves of appropriate community resources, including, physical examinations, random drug screens, parenting classes, custody evaluation, and individual psychotherapy;
- write detailed guidelines or recommended rules to help the parents communicate with one another, and practicing implementing those guidelines or rules.
- if a parent lacks or is deficient in parenting skills, teach the necessary skills or refer the parent to an appropriate parenting skills course;
- recommend a means of compliance with any parenting plan or schedule in the court's order;
- if necessary, facilitate communication between the parents by serving as a

conduit for information;

- when the parents cannot agree on a resolution of significant conflicts, and when it is necessary to promote the children's best interests, recommend modification of a parenting plan or contact/parenting time schedule (such recommendations must be written, and provided to the parents and to the parents' attorneys);
- when the parents cannot otherwise agree in joint custody cases, make recommendations regarding religion, religious training and church attendance.
- monitor safety issues in those cases involving domestic violence; and
- recommend, if appropriate, the institution or cessation of supervised visitation (this must be written and detailed, and copied to counsel).

5. Limitation on the Role of the PC. The role of the PC is limited as set forth in the I.P.T.G., and specifically, the PC shall not:

- serve as a custody evaluator in this case;
- make a binding recommendation for a change in the children's primary physical residence (however, the PC may advise the parents or their counsel for the need of a review of the custody order);
- address significant financial matters between the parents; or
- attempt to exercise judicial authority.

6. Meetings.

6.1 Each parent shall immediately contact the PC to schedule and arrange their initial appointments.

6.2 The parents shall provide copies of all pleadings, court orders and correspondence relating to the PC issues. These documents shall initially be provided within ten (10) days of the date of this order.

6.3 Each parent shall direct any disagreement with the other parent regarding the children to the PC. The PC shall work with both parents to resolve the conflict, and, if necessary, recommend an appropriate resolution to the parents and their legal counsel.

6.4 In fulfilling PC responsibilities, the PC shall be entitled to communicate with the parents and children, separately or together, in person or by telephone. The PC is likewise entitled to communicate with all health care providers and mental health providers for the parents and the children, and with any other persons reasonably deemed necessary by the PC consistent with the I.P.T.G. The parents shall not contact the parenting coordinator outside normal working hours, unless the matter constitutes a genuine emergency.

6.5 The parents and all agencies shall participate in good faith in this process.

7. Reports and Court Appearances.

7.1 The PC may submit written reports to the parents and their counsel, describing any significant conflicts and the PC's recommended resolutions. The PC may also report to the parents and their counsel regarding parental compliance and attitudes related to any element of the parenting plan or time schedule.

7.2 The PC shall submit a written report to the parents and their counsel at the completion of the PC's services, and may also submit interim reports as appropriate.

7.3 All reports and recommendations of the PC shall comply with the I.P.T.G., and specifically Guideline IV., G.

8. Terms of Appointment / Confidentiality

8.1 The PC is appointed until discharged by court order, as provided at I.P.T.G., Guideline IV. C.

8.2 The PC may be discharged at any time by the court, with or without a motion filed by a parent, consistent with I.P.T.G., Guideline IV. C. 5.

8.3 The PC may also be discharged or disqualified as permitted in the I.P.T.G.

8.4 The PC may seek to withdraw from acting as PC in the case as permitted at I.P.T.G., Guideline IV. C. 6

8.5 No therapist-patient relationship and/or privilege is created between the pc and the parents or the children. See I.P.T.G., Guideline IV. H.

8.6 There is no privilege or right of confidentiality between the children, the parents and the PC. See I.P.T.G., Guideline IV. H.

9. Cooperation and Release of Information.

9.1 The parents shall fully cooperate with the PC as required in the I.P.T.G. This includes remaining open to the suggestions and advice of the PC, and maintaining open communication with the PC.

9.2 The parents shall likewise cooperate with the PC by: providing all relevant documentation to the PC; signing all release of information forms; and otherwise providing all authority necessary for the PC to obtain all medical, education, counseling and treatment information of the parents, the children or any other person as the PC deems necessary. See I.P.T.G., Guideline IV. E. 5.

9.3 Further, the parents shall also provide and gather all relevant information as the PC requests, including but not limited to medical, educational, counseling and treatment information of the parents, the children, or any other person necessary to the recommendations of the PC. See I.P.T.G., Guideline IV. E. 5.

Date: ____, 20__

JUDGE / MAGISTRATE/COMMISSIONER

Copies to:

Attorney for Petitioner,
Attorney for Respondent,
Parenting Coordinator,
Date of notice: